Mt. Blue Regional School District

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all.

Board of Directors Meeting AGENDA Minutes

DATE: January 23, 2024

PLACE: The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

TIME: 6:30pm

LIVESTREAM LINK: https://boxcast.tv/channel/unvoa3ijkfnyp9oufole

Board Members Present: Wayne Kinney, Dee Robinson, Kyle Fletcher, Carol Coles, Scott Erb, Gwen Doak, Judith Kaut, Gloria McGraw, Amanda Caruso, Josh Robbins, Will Jones, Janice David, Jeff Barnum, Greg Kimber, Debbie Smith

Absent: Rich Ruhlin

Admin Present: Christian Elkington, Katie Duchesne, Tracy Williams, Melissa Williams,

Nichole Goodspeed, James Black, Keith Acedo, Richard Joseph

- I. Call to Order Chair Robinson
 - Meeting called to order at 6:32pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - Under communications, see strikethrough will be done in February
 - Under new business, Senior Trip approval postponed to the next meeting
- IV. Report of the Chairperson Chair Robinson
 - A. Code of Ethics Prelim & A
- V. Communications
 - A. Staff Members of the Month for December Postponed TO NEXT MTG AGENDA
 - B. RSU 9 Superintendent's Newsletter
 - 1. Attendance improvement is impressive!
 - C. RSU 9 Tech Talk Newsletter
- VI. Potential Field Project -
 - A. Approved fundraising plan
 - 1. Review of the plan draft approved by the Finance Committee
 - B. Question answers from committee mtg.
 - 1. Was the synthetic turf improvement plan for the field ever approved by the full board?
 - a) An informal ok, by the Board to move forward did occur, but an official approval by vote has not.
 - (1) What would the board like moving forward?

- 2. Questions about injuries and materials that go into a synthetic field (PFAS concerns).
- C. <u>Present estimated district competition field upkeep costs</u>
- D. Review of previous Board approval
 - 1. Was only a green light to keep planning, not a Board vote
- E. Questions
 - 1. A long discussion
 - a) Spreadsheet noted above, specifically focusing on the increased ability to use the field.
 - b) Questions about upkeep cost of artificial v. natural field
 - (1) Marking Sports Fields lines would be decreased for the competition field, painting the lines would stop as it wouldn't need to be done.
 - (a) Hours of upkeep would be reduced
 - (2) Mowing costs
 - (a) reduced
 - c) Total estimated cost of project?
 - (1) \$1.6 million
 - d) Comparison of apples to apples, including maintenance of the artificial field vs grass field?
 - (1) Supt. referenced the number of a 50% reduction in maintenance cost from talking with other schools that made this transition.
 - e) Estimated impact financially in year 10 or 11 would be?
 - (1) Replace turf?
 - (a) Estimates vary but probably in the \$200,000 range
 - (2) Wanting more specific information (who would we use, what chemical issues...)
 - f) What happens to the turf when it needs to be removed, cost, concerns, etc.?
 - (1) Board Members want info from professionals in medical, chemical, etc.)
 - g) If the fundraising plan changed to grass could the Boosters continue to fundraise?
 - (1) The Booster's proposal is for a turf field as they feel the other option could not be supported by district funding and would not better serve present and future student-athlete-team needs.
 - h) Concerns about microplastic:
 - (1) Even if turf is PFas free.
 - (2) Do not want to rush into a synthetic field unless all chemical components are researched and understood.
 - i) Injury rate concerns were raised and does turf really help?
 - (1) There are multiple studies on both sides of the issue
 - (a) Hard to tell as the quality of the surface is not equal
 - 2. Additional thoughts:

- a) Previous concerns about the problems with the field w/reiterated
 - (1) field conditions and not being able to use it nearly as often as it should be in its current state.
- b) Some Board members have serious disagreements with moving forward with artificial turf too quickly. Would like more info about potential information to the board about materials.
- Student-Athletes shared concerns about the playing surface problems over their 4 years as a student have grown exponentially.

F. Next Steps?

- 1. Motion:
 - a) Member Erb put a motion forward to approve the fundraising plan as written, seconded by McGraw.

2. Discussion:

- a) Several clarifying questions.
 - (1) Hard for some to agree to vote if they don't know what the material to be used will be.
 - (2) Several comments about the intent of going to turf to increase student-athlete usage, as currently it is minimal.

3. Vote

Motion to accept plan for fundraising as presented	Yeas: Wayne, Dee, Kyle, Carol, Scott, Gwen, Judith, Gloria, Amanda, Josh, Will Nays: Janice, Debbie, Jeff, Greg Abstained: Vote:774/177/0	Motion: Scott Erb Seconded: Josh Robbins Motion: Passed
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VII. Good news stories from the Board or Administrators

VIII. Public Comment

- A. Comments were shared about:
 - 1. The boosters volunteered hundreds of hours towards the synthetic field plan and that they used \$25,000 for research and homework.
 - 2. Present competition field is one of the worst fields we play on.

IX. Superintendent's Report - Elkington

- A. New Hires, Transfers, Resignations, and Retirements
- **B.** District Vacancies
- C. RSU 9 Strategic Plan Update
- D. Holman House Move-in Timeline
- E. American Students Progress during COVID

- F. Community Schools Update
- G. Social Media is damaging our students
- H. Storm Days/End of Semester
- I. Parent-Teacher Conference #s
 - `No questions were asked.

X. Administrator Reports

- A. AHS/GDCS Keith Acedo
- B. MBMS James Black & Katie Duchesne
- C. CCHS Carol Kiesman
- D. MBHS Joel Smith
 - Several points were referenced by administrators with several questions about specific areas mentioned in discussed.

XI. Presentations

- A. <u>Clean Bus Grant Review</u> Joseph & Elkington
 - 1. Federal Program
 - 2. Costs
 - 3. Bus & Shop Needs/Specifics
 - 4. Final Submission Date 1-31-2024
 - The above points were reviewed with questions asked with needing more time for the range to be improved.
 - 5. Recommendation
 - Supt. does not recommend to do this at this time; too cost prohibitive with our present needs
 - b) Motion
 - (1) McGraw, second by Doak to approve the Superintendent's recommendation.

Motion to go with the Superintendent's recommendation, not to move forward at this time.	Yeas: Wayne, Dee, Kyle, Carol, Scott, Gwen, Judith, Gloria, Amanda, Josh, Will, Debbie, Jeff, Greg Nays: Janice Abstained: Vote:867/84/0	Motion: Gloria Seconded: Gwen Motion: Passed
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- B. School Garden Programming Laura Hoeft, Sarah Reynolds
 - 1. Greater Franklin Food Council
 - 2. History of the program
 - 3. Which RSU 9 Schools are involved
 - 4. Curriculum/Instruction
 - a) They believe they have created a wonderful curriculum through this work.

5. Questions

 Several questions were asked and answered by Laura Hoeft. If extra funds are needed the Board asked for the information when ready to see if they can help in the next budget.

Motion to extend the meeting 20 minutes by Scott E. seconded by Gwen D. at 8:35pm -

Motion to extend the meeting 20 minutes.	Yeas: Wayne, Dee, Kyle, Carol, Scott, Gwen, Judith, Gloria, Amanda, Josh, Will, Debbie, Jeff, Greg Nays: Janice Abstained: Vote: 867/84/0	Motion: Scott Seconded: Gwen Motion: Passed
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XII. Consent Agenda

- A. New Hires/Resignations etc.
- B. Board Minutes 12-12-2023
- C. Committee Report Outs and Minutes
 - 1. Operations Committee 1-2-2024
 - 2. Educational Policy 1-2-2024
 - 3. Personnel & Finance 1-18-2024 & 12-5-2023 Amended
- D. Motion
- E. Vote

XIII. New Business

- A. Senior Trip Approval Postponed TO NEXT MTG AGENDA
 - 1. Review
 - 2. Questions/Discussion
 - 3. Motion
 - 4. Vote
- B. 23-24 Calendar Review
 - 1. Present end of year 6-17-2024
 - 2. Holiday Pay
 - 3. Propose:
 - a) Supt. proposes that Friday, June 21st, be our last possible student day. If we need to go beyond Friday, June 21st, because of storms, we will work with the Mt. Blue

- Educational Association to look at alternative options allowed under guidance from the Maine Dept. of Ed.
- b) Graduation for the Class of 2024 continues on Sunday, June 9th. If need be, we ask for a waiver of the 170 school day expectation for seniors from the commissioner.
- 4. Questions
 - a) None asked
- 5. Motion(s)
- 6. Vote

Motion to approve the Calendar as discussed	Yeas: Wayne, Dee, Kyle, Carol, Scott, Gwen, Judith, Gloria, Amanda, Josh, Will, Debbie, Jeff, Greg, Janice Nays: Dee Abstained: Vote:877/74/0	Motion: Gloria Seconded: Carol Motion: Passed
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C. 24-25 Budget Timeline

- 1. Review
- 2. Discussion
- 3. Questions
 - a) None
- 4. Motion
- 5. Vote

Motion to approve the Budget Timeline as presented	Yeas: Unanimous Nays: Abstained: Vote:951/0/0	Motion: Jeff Seconded: Wayne Motion: Passed
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Adjourn w/o objection at 8:50pm - Chair Robinson

Postponed To Next Meeting

- D. Policy Review
 - Basic Changes/Updates (One reading)
 - a) <u>JLDBG</u> Reintegration of Students from Juvenile Correction Facilities
 - b) Motion to approve all
 - 2. Major Changes/Updates (Second reading)
 - a) JLCC Communicable Diseases
 - (1) Question<u>JLCC Communicable/Infectious</u> Diseases.docxs?
 - (2) Suggested changes?
 - b) JHB Truancy
 - (1) Questions?
 - (2) Suggested changes?

XIV. Adjourn

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

February 13, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

• Board Reports - None

February 27, 2024 - 6:30pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

• Board Reports - Adult Ed, WGM

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Operations - February 6, 2024 - 5:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus Personnel & Finance - February 6, 2024 - 6:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus Educational Policy - February 6, 2024 - 7:00pm - The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus